

what has happened as the President has failed to renegotiate NAFTA to help workers.

Let me give you an example. Let me give a real quick story. After NAFTA passed, 5 months later, I went to the Mexican border with a friend. I went across the border and visited a Mexican auto plant. That auto plant looked just like an auto plant in Cleveland or just like an auto plant in Cincinnati and just like the Jeep plant in Toledo.

There was one difference. The workers were working hard. The floors were clean. The technology was up-to-date. There was one difference between the auto plant in Mexico and the auto plant in Toledo. The difference was the Mexican auto plant didn't have a parking lot because the workers who work there can't afford to buy the cars they make.

Yet President Trump's renegotiation of NAFTA left those workers' wages out so the workers will continue to be far, far underpaid in Mexico, will have weaker environmental laws—especially with the Trump tax plan—encouraging more American companies to move to Mexico.

On another issue so important to so many in this country, especially elderly people, Democrats have a plan to lower the price of prescription drugs. One news outlet said it combines just about every policy idea that drug lobbyists hate. Yet President Trump and Members of this Senate, all with good healthcare paid for by taxpayers—don't ever forget that. All of us who represent people in this country have good healthcare paid for by taxpayers. They are all trying to take away the protections for Americans with preexisting conditions.

Let me go back to the overtime issue for a minute. Three years ago, I stood

in Columbus to announce the Obama administration was going to raise the salary threshold to earn overtime pay and make millions of more workers eligible. That would have meant 4 million Americans and 130,000 Ohioans were going to get a raise. As I explained earlier, when you make \$35,000 or \$40,000 and are paid a salary, they call you management. So when you work more than 40 hours, you don't get paid a nickel for any time you work over 40 hours. So what President Obama's rule did was give a raise to 130,000 Ohioans, 4 million workers, but workers didn't get that raise because attorneys general—far-right and extremely conservative attorneys general—around the country first sued to stop it, and then when President Trump won the election, he came up with a new rule that leaves most of those workers behind.

We are talking about people making \$38,000 or \$40,000 a year—middle managers at banks, restaurants, and grocery stores. They are often required to work 60 to 70 hours a week without getting a cent of overtime. It is an American value and what we stand for as a nation. It is how we should govern, through the eyes of workers, through the dignity of work. If people work 50 or 60 hours—obviously, Senators and bank presidents and CEO's and doctors and lawyers shouldn't get paid overtime, but people making \$35,000 or \$40,000, if you work more than 40 hours a week, you should get overtime. That is what we used to do in this country, but we don't do it all the time now because of President Trump's opposition.

Democrats have a bill to fix this, the Restoring Overtime Pay Act, that would allow 4.6 million Americans to be newly eligible for overtime pay.

The President clearly doesn't understand how somebody living on \$35,000

or \$40,000 a year—what that person's challenges are. The President thinks it is fine to leave those workers behind. So much for fighting for American workers. That was his campaign promise. He would put them back to work. He would have good manufacturing wages for them. He would pay them. He would make sure they made good wages. It is all part of Donald Trump's phony populism. He divides to distract from the fact that his administration looks like a Wall Street retreat.

True populism is never racist; it is never anti-Semitic. True populists don't pass tax cuts for rich people and leave out workers with children. Populists don't choose Wall Street over consumers. Populists don't choose corporations over workers. Populists don't choose health insurance companies over sick people.

It all comes down to whose side you are on. Are you going to fight for the dignity of work or are you going to fight for the privilege of the wealthy?

The President promised to fight for American workers. He breaks that promise every day. He has broken that promise for more than 2 years. If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work. I wish President Trump would remember that.

I yield the floor.

---

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:04 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at 10 a.m.